

Lake County Sheriff's Office

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Date: January 13, 2023



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John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Sheriff's Deputies Save the Life of Elderly Woman

On January 13, 2023, three Lake County Sheriff's Deputies worked together to save a life.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office provides a program called, R.U.O.K. (Are You Okay) for Lake County residents living alone, who benefit from being checked on every day or two. A member of the sheriff's office calls the R.U.O.K. client to check their well-being. The program is designed to assist those who do not have family or friends that are regularly able to check in on them.

On January 13th, Deputy Katie Gordon was conducting the R.U.O.K. telephone calls for the day. She was unable to reach a 77-year-old woman who resides in unincorporated Lake Villa. The prior day, the woman sounded tired when she was contacted. Deputy Gordon contacted the Patrol Division and requested deputies conduct a check for wellbeing.

When Sheriff's Deputies Trish List and Jessica Fill arrived at the residence, they did not receive an answer at the door. The deputies were able to obtain a key for the residence and entered. They found the woman on the floor, confused and unable to move. Deputies List and Fill called for an ambulance and she was transported to an area hospital for treatment. It is likely the woman was on the floor for 18-24 hours. The woman is expected to recover.

Four years ago, Sheriff Idleburg changed the nature of the program from reactive to proactive, where members of the sheriff's office proactively call the R.U.O.K resident, versus the resident calling and leaving a message for the sheriff's office.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "The collaboration between Deputies Gordon, List, and Fill undoubtedly saved a life. This is not the first time the R.U.O.K. program saved a life and I am very proud of everyone who has a role in the program."

Anyone interested in learning more about the R.U.O.K. program can go to: <https://bit.ly/3X1Ngu5>

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